



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
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IN REPLY REFER TO:  
CMC-TECOM

14 FEB 2005

**PERSONAL**

GREEN LETTER NO. 01-05

From: Commandant of the Marine Corps  
To: All General Officers  
All Senior Executive Service Members

Subj: REVISED MARINE CORPS PROFESSIONAL READING PROGRAM

1. ALMAR 007/05 announced the revised Marine Corps Professional Reading Program. This is the first step to reinvigorate a key element of our PME, as promised in my initial guidance. I will need your assistance in carrying out the next steps of fully implementing the program and sustaining its momentum. Future warfighting excellence demands that our Marines not only maintain physical endurance and technical proficiency but, just as importantly, continue intellectual development.
2. To meet the new challenges associated with 21<sup>st</sup> Century warfare, the revised reading program promotes the development of "discussion forums." My expectation is that these forums will foster intellectual creativity, spark professional debate, encourage the circulation of fresh ideas, and increase camaraderie and proficiency among our Marines. The Professional Reading Program will reinforce our service culture and preserve our core values, while guiding our leaders in situations requiring split-second decision-making on a constantly changing battlefield.
3. The revised Professional Reading Program does not supplant the intent of the 29<sup>th</sup> Commandant, General A. M. Gray, whose initiative sought to promote the pursuit of lifelong learning. Rather, this represents the logical next step in the evolution of our program to perpetuate warfighting excellence into an increasingly uncertain future.
4. Marine Corps University will manage the Professional Reading Program and make recommendations concerning what material will best meet the program's enduring objectives.
5. There is an immediate and pressing need to bolster the value of professional education within our ranks. My fear is that with sustained combat operations in the global war on terrorism, this vital program will be neglected, and our Marines' intellectual adaptability and mental agility will atrophy. Take the time to ensure this revised program is pursued with vigor. The program remains essential for the continued intellectual growth of our Marines and the significance of the Marine Corps' contribution to our Nation's security. I expect all Marines to participate fully.

  
M. W. Hagee